

SUMMER 2009: GREATEST DEALS EVER

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A \$25,000
DREAM
TRIP
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TRUTH IN TRAVEL

MAY 2009

EUROPE
ON SALE
CRUISING
CLASSIC CITIES

HOT LIST WORLD'S TOP NEW 140 hotels*

50 Restaurants

50 Spas

35 Nightclubs

*including 43 under \$250

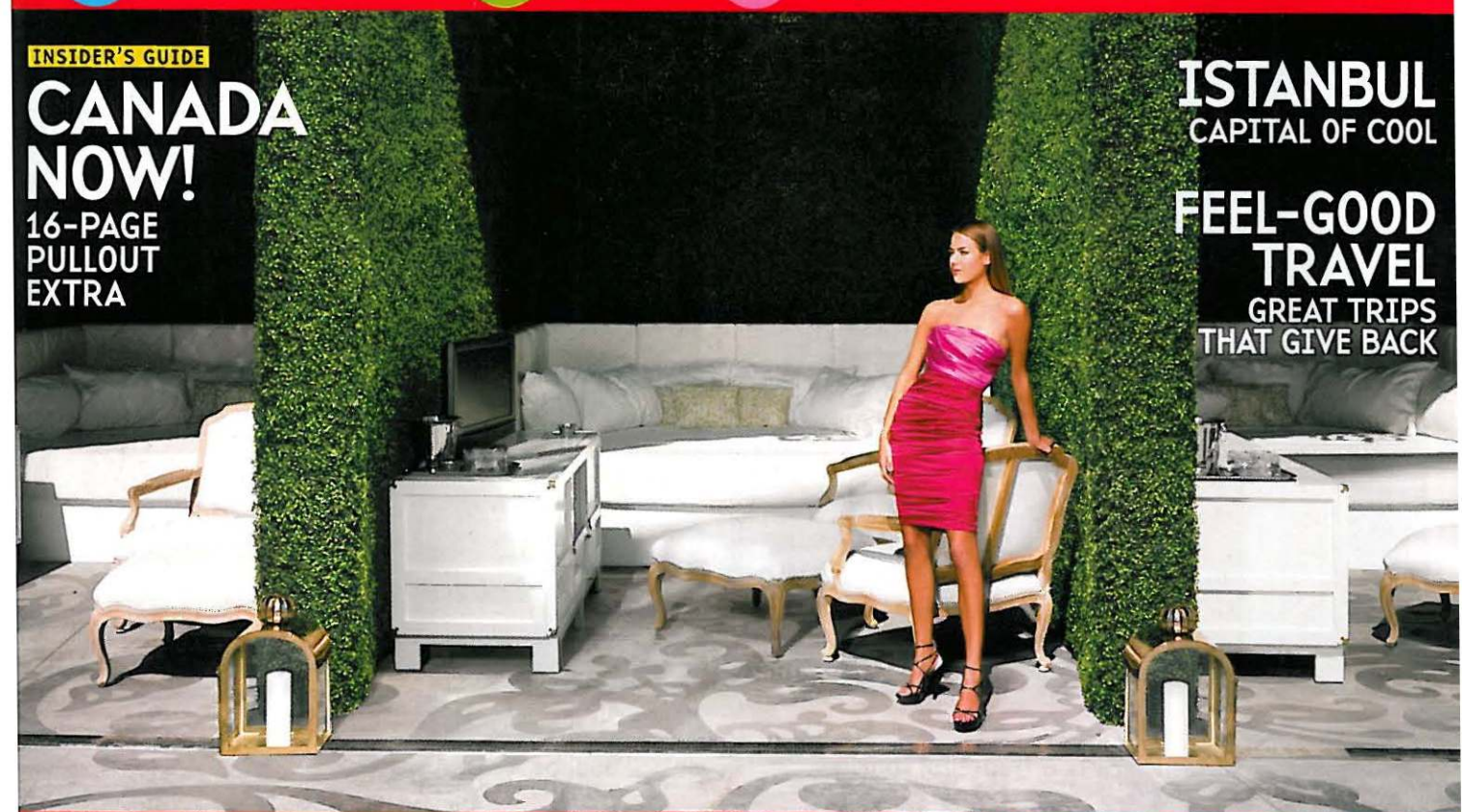
INSIDER'S GUIDE

CANADA NOW!

16-PAGE
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EXTRA

ISTANBUL CAPITAL OF COOL

FEEL-GOOD TRAVEL GREAT TRIPS THAT GIVE BACK



JOHANNESBURG *South Africa*

THIS CITY OF 2.5 MILLION IS A **BURGEONING CULTURAL CAPITAL**
EMERGING FROM THE DARK DAYS OF APARTHEID ON THE STRENGTH OF ITS DIVERSITY



The Headlines
FROM its volatile nineteenth-century beginnings as a gold-mining shantytown through the turbulent years of apartheid and beyond, Southern Africa's largest city has grown accustomed to being portrayed in the media as an impoverished and lawless place more associated with carjackings than culture.

Beyond the Headlines

But Johannesburg is a cosmopolitan capital with a rich sociopolitical history, a thriving arts scene, and excellent shopping. People from all over Africa move to Joburg to chase their dreams, creating a diverse melting pot of cultures, languages, and ideologies. Johannesburgers have an irrepressible energy and friendly disposition that most visitors

find a welcome surprise. These days, soccer fever is sweeping the city as it prepares to host the FIFA World Cup next year.

Just outside the city center, open green spaces abound. One of the best places to enjoy them is at Zoo Lake, where you can take in the views from the terrace of **Moyo** restaurant (1 Prince of Wales Dr.; 27-11-646-0058; entrées, \$8–\$14). For a look deep into South Africa's history and human rights abuses, tour **Constitution Hill**, site of the prison where political activists such as Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi were held. In Newtown, the city's cultural enclave, the famous **Market Theatre** stages first-rate plays (56 Margaret Mcingana St.; 27-11-832-1641); next door, the exhibits at **Museum**



The new AtholPlace.

Africa provide an in-depth view of South Africa's more recent past as well as the ancient history of the continent (121 Bree St.; 27-11-833-5624). The township of **Soweto**, a vibrant city-within-a-city, has its own distinct music, fashion, and design and is a must-see in Johannesburg. The best guides are local Sowetans; book a tour through your hotel. The **Apartheid Museum**, in the city center, gives an unflinching and indelible glimpse of life during apartheid (27-11-309-4700; apartheidmuseum.org). On the lighter side, **44 Stanley Avenue**, in the fashionable Millpark neighborhood, is a top shopping center for fashion and art.

Bed and Board

On a hill overlooking the city and zoo, **The Westcliff** has terraced gardens and old-world charm (27-11-481-6000; westcliff.co.za; doubles, \$365–\$445). The newly renovated **Grace in Rosebank** has 73 elegant rooms and a rooftop pool (27-11-280-7200; thegrace.co.za; doubles, \$223). **AtholPlace** is a small new hotel with luxurious rooms (see "Hot List"). The spa at the all-suite **Saxon Boutique Hotel** is consistently rated among the world's best (27-11-292-6000; saxon.co.za; suites, \$553–\$2,002).

An unassuming Italian restaurant in Illovo, **Assaggi** is a local favorite (30 Rudd Rd.; 27-11-268-1370; entrées, \$7–\$14). In Melville, the **Service Station** offers breakfast and lunch in a relaxed, modern space

(corner of 9th St. and Rustenburg Rd.; 27-11-726-1701; breakfast, \$3–\$5).

Gramadoela's, in Newtown's Market Theatre Complex, has been a Joburg institution since 1967 and serves pan-African favorites such as venison pie and sea-

food stew (27-11-838-6960; entrées, \$7–\$29). The **Radium Beer Hall** is the city's oldest watering hole and an atmospheric place to hear live jazz (282 Louis Botha Ave., Orange Grove).

Local Intelligence

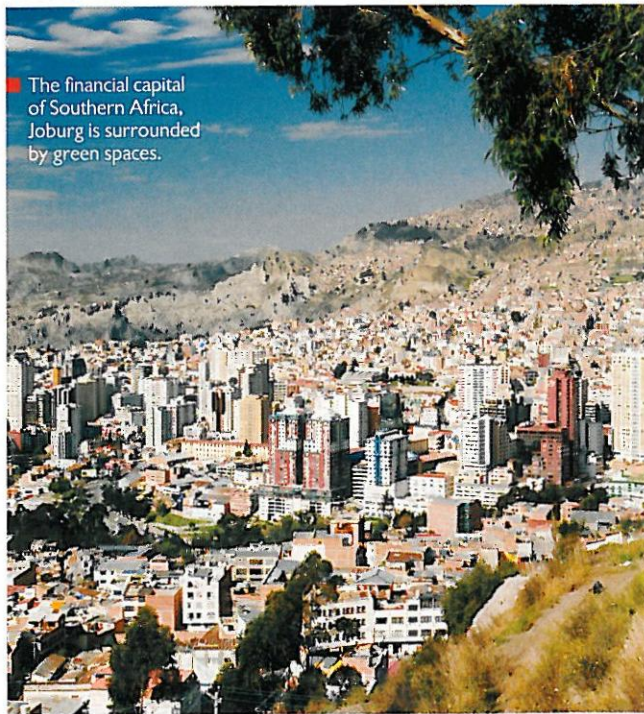
Joburg has no reliable public transportation or taxi service, so always arrange cars through your hotel. Leave valuables at home to avoid becoming a target of street crime.

A Walk on the Wild Side

Go underground to explore the **Cullinan Diamond Mine**, where the world's largest gem-quality diamond was discovered in 1905 (jozibearthours.co.za).

The Perfect Souvenir

For affordable prints of works by South Africa's leading and emerging artists, head to Newtown's **Artist Proof Studio** (artistproofstudio.org.za) and the **Bag Factory** (bagfactoryart.org.za). —Jane Broughton, with additional reporting by Alex Halperin



The financial capital of Southern Africa, Joburg is surrounded by green spaces.



The Apartheid Museum.

TYPICAL DAY FOR TWO
\$291

HOTEL A standard room in the newly renovated and well-located **Grace in Rosebank**: \$223.

LUNCH A vegetable tagine and grilled prawns at **Moyo**, set amid the greenery at Zoo Lake: \$25.

DINNER Nelson Mandela's favorite, umngqusho (braised beef shin, beans, and corn), at **Gramadoela's**: \$30.

ACTIVITY A production of a contemporary South African play at the historic **Market Theatre**: \$13.